



For immediate release
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Missouri's April Labor Market Conditions Remain Relatively Unchanged

Missouri's unadjusted unemployment rate fell to 5.0 percent in April from the revised March figure of 5.4 percent, according to the Missouri Department of Economic Development. The seasonally adjusted rate remained unchanged from last month at 5.2 percent, but showed signs of seasonal improvement typically encountered in April.

The counties reporting the lowest unemployment rates were Nodaway 1.6, Boone 2.1 and Cole 2.6. The highest unemployment rates recorded were 11.8 percent in Wayne County, 10.7 percent in Douglas County and 10.1 percent in Madison, Reynolds and Stone counties.

The seasonally adjusted U.S. unemployment rate in April was 6.0 percent, three-tenths of a percentage point higher than March and up 1.5 percentage points from April 2001. Missouri's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is six-tenths of a point higher than the April 2001 rate compared to a 1.5 point climb in the corresponding national figure for the same time period.

Non-farm payroll employment grew somewhat in April, on an unadjusted basis. Employment was up by nearly 20,000 jobs from March. Manufacturing employment was essentially unchanged, holding steady at nearly 361,000 jobs for the third straight month.

Construction was up by 3,000 jobs and retail trade grew by 4,800 jobs, with three-fourths of those in eating and drinking places. Employment in the service industries was up by 10,500 jobs, the largest gains being in amusement and recreation services and in agricultural services.

But on a seasonally adjusted basis, hiring in all of these industries was less than the seasonal norm, causing seasonally adjusted employment to actually fall: construction was down by 1,600, retail trade by 3,100, and services by 700 jobs.

Employment was little changed in transportation and utilities; wholesale trade; and finance, insurance, and real estate. Government employment was also little changed, other than 600-job increase in federal government. Seasonally adjusted, government employment was down by 1,000 jobs.

Over the past year, non-farm payrolls have lost 61,100 jobs (not seasonally adjusted). Manufacturing has accounted for much of the job loss with 26,000 jobs. Construction employment is down by 7,600 jobs. The private service-producing industries have shed 27,800 jobs over the past year, with services employment down by 10,100, including a 5,100-job loss in business services. Government employment is little changed on balance, with a gain of 4,000 jobs in the local sector offsetting a loss of 4,100 in state government.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (APRIL 2002), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2002), AND YEAR AGO (APRIL 2001)

	APR 2002	MAR 2002	FEB 2002	APR 2001		APR 2002	MAR 2002	FEB 2002	APR 2001
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	5.7	6.1	6.1	4.2	Atchison	2.6	3.0	3.6	2.7
MISSOURI	5.0	5.4	5.2	4.4	Audrain	4.8	4.9	4.2	3.3
ST. LOUIS MSA	5.2	5.3	5.1	4.5	Barton	3.7	4.3	4.2	3.1
Franklin	5.4	5.7	5.6	4.6	Bates	6.5	7.4	7.1	5.1
Jefferson	5.3	5.5	5.3	4.0	Benton	7.2	8.5	9.3	7.4
Lincoln	5.7	6.1	6.1	5.0	Caldwell	7.1	8.0	7.7	5.4
St. Charles	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.3	Carroll	4.9	5.7	5.6	4.9
St. Louis County	4.4	4.4	4.1	3.6	Cedar	5.1	6.3	5.7	4.8
Warren	5.3	6.0	5.6	4.8	Chariton	5.4	6.1	6.2	5.5
St. Louis City	8.7	8.8	8.2	7.8	Clark	7.8	7.9	7.9	6.9
KANSAS CITY MSA	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.1	Cooper	4.0	5.3	5.4	3.6
Cass	3.7	4.0	4.2	3.0	Crawford	6.5	7.6	7.0	5.7
Clay	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.0	Dade	5.0	5.9	5.2	3.9
Clinton	4.2	4.9	5.0	3.4	Dallas	8.0	8.9	9.2	5.9
Jackson	5.3	5.4	5.1	4.8	Daviess	5.8	6.1	5.9	5.6
Lafayette	5.0	5.3	5.1	3.8	DeKalb	8.6	9.0	9.2	4.7
Platte	3.7	3.8	3.7	2.5	Dent	6.5	7.5	8.1	8.2
Ray	4.5	4.6	4.3	3.9	Douglas	10.7	12.3	12.3	8.5
SPRINGFIELD MSA	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.4	Dunklin	7.4	8.4	8.3	6.2
Christian	4.4	4.8	4.8	4.3	Gasconade	5.4	5.9	6.1	5.1
Greene	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.1	Gentry	5.0	5.6	5.6	4.2
Webster	5.5	5.5	5.4	4.3	Grundy	5.0	5.7	5.3	3.8
JOPLIN MSA	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.1	Harrison	5.0	5.6	5.4	3.6
Jasper	4.5	4.9	4.5	4.0	Henry	5.9	6.5	6.9	5.8
Newton	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.3	Hickory	6.6	8.2	9.6	7.8
COLUMBIA MSA	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.5	Holt	4.4	5.1	5.1	4.5
Boone	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.5	Howard	4.4	5.6	5.2	4.2
ST. JOSEPH MSA	5.6	6.0	6.1	4.5	Iron	8.0	8.3	8.0	7.4
Andrew	4.8	5.4	5.6	4.1	Johnson	3.8	4.3	3.9	3.5
Buchanan	5.8	6.1	6.2	4.6	Knox	4.2	4.5	4.2	5.6
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	3.7	4.5	4.2	3.7	Laclede	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.4
Adair	3.4	4.1	3.6	3.4	Lewis	4.2	5.0	5.0	4.8
Schuyler	5.2	6.9	7.2	5.3	Linn	4.6	6.1	6.4	5.2
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	5.5	6.1	6.0	5.3	Livingston	3.8	3.7	4.1	3.9
Butler	5.0	5.5	5.4	5.2	McDonald	5.1	5.4	5.3	4.2
Carter	6.0	8.3	8.3	5.6	Macon	7.2	8.3	8.3	11.1
Ripley	6.9	6.9	7.0	5.8	Madison	10.1	10.0	9.6	7.0
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	6.7	8.6	10.1	5.2	Mercer	4.3	4.7	4.9	3.5
Camden	6.2	8.1	9.8	5.1	Monroe	6.6	7.4	7.3	7.3
Miller	7.4	9.4	10.6	5.4	Montgomery	5.9	6.1	6.3	5.4
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.4	Morgan	7.5	9.0	9.6	6.5
Bollinger	7.7	8.9	9.6	6.0	Nodaway	1.6	2.1	2.4	1.9
Cape Girardeau	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.8	Ozark	6.0	6.9	8.0	5.7
Mississippi	7.5	8.0	8.7	9.1	Pemiscot	9.8	10.5	10.0	7.6
New Madrid	8.0	8.7	8.4	7.5	Perry	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.1
Scott	5.6	5.8	5.6	6.1	Pettis	5.8	6.6	6.8	5.2
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	3.3	3.5	3.2	2.9	Pike	5.8	6.2	5.5	4.3
Callaway	3.6	3.9	3.7	2.9	Polk	4.2	4.4	4.2	3.8
Cole	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.5	Pulaski	5.2	5.9	6.0	6.5
Moniteau	4.6	4.7	3.6	3.7	Putnam	4.7	5.6	5.3	3.2
Osage	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.5	Randolph	5.9	6.1	6.2	5.6
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	5.2	5.7	5.8	4.6	Reynolds	10.1	12.6	12.2	8.4
Howell	5.2	5.3	5.5	4.6	St. Clair	5.9	6.3	5.7	5.7
Oregon	4.8	4.9	5.5	4.1	Ste. Genevieve	5.7	6.2	6.3	4.7
Shannon	5.8	8.5	7.6	5.5	Saline	5.7	6.2	5.8	3.5
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	4.9	5.2	5.2	4.6	Scotland	4.4	6.3	6.3	3.6
Barry	4.5	4.8	5.3	4.4	Shelby	5.5	7.3	8.0	6.6
Lawrence	5.2	5.5	5.1	4.7	Stoddard	6.3	7.8	7.7	5.9
MARION-RALLS LMA	5.0	5.8	6.0	5.3	Stone	10.1	18.1	23.3	9.3
Marion	4.9	5.7	5.9	5.3	Sullivan	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.8
Ralls	5.1	6.1	6.3	5.4	Taney	8.3	15.3	20.2	8.2
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.6	Texas	6.0	7.0	7.4	6.0
Maries	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.4	Vernon	5.4	5.8	4.6	3.7
Phelps	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.4	Wayne	11.8	12.2	13.7	10.6
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	8.0	8.7	8.5	6.7	Worth	5.6	6.7	7.8	4.5
St. Francois	7.3	7.8	7.6	6.7	Wright	9.6	10.8	10.8	8.5
Washington	9.9	11.1	10.9	6.6					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.

NOTE: 2001 DATA FOR SUBSTATE AREAS HAVE BEEN REVISED BUT ARE PROVISIONAL: NOT YET OFFICIAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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